



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

December 1, 1977

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File
Argentina~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TO : PM/SAS - R. Titus
L/PM - T. Borek
ARA/ECA/A - F. Rondon
ARA/RPP - C. Finan

FROM : HA/HR - E. O. Jones ✓

SUBJECT: Argentine Military Assistance

Following is HA proposed text of reply to Embassy Buenos Aires:

TO : BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

INFO : USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ PRIORITY
USASAALA FT AMADOR CZ PRIORITY

SUBJ : Argentine Military Assistance

REF : Buenos Aires 8974

TAGS : MASS, AR

While there is no legislative/ bar to the purchase of training under FMS procedures during FY 1978, the present human rights situation is sufficiently serious to require the Department to disapprove any such purchase at this time. You should inform the GOA of this, emphasizing that should there be a change for the better, the Department will reconsider this decision.

Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP

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Department of State

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

PAGE 01 BUENOS 09281 071817Z
ACTION PM-05

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BUENOS 09281 071817Z

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 IGA-02 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01
SS-15 SP-02 NSCE-00 ACDA-12 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3584

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 9281

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, AR
SUBJECT: ARGENTINE PURCHASE OF MILITARY TRAINING

REF: (A) BUENOS AIRES 8290, (B) BUENOS AIRES 9280

1. DURING MY COURTESY CALL ON ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF VIOLA YESTERDAY DECEMBER 5 HE TOLD ME HOW DISTRESSING IT WOULD BE IF ARGENTINE MILITARY OFFICERS WERE PROHIBITED TRAINING IN THE US PURCHASED BY THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT. VIOLA SAID THAT DENIAL OF CREDIT FOR MILITARY PURCHASES AND DENIAL OF SPARE PARTS WERE OTHER PAINFUL CATEGORIES, BUT THAT TRAINING IS AT THIS POINT EVEN MORE ON HIS MIND.

2. THIS BRINGS US BACK TO THE URGENT MATTER RAISED IN OUR REFTEL. THIRTY-THREE YOUNG ARGENTINE OFFICERS WHO HAVE BEEN RECEIVING INTENSIVE ENGLISH TRAINING COURSES TO PREPARE FOR TRAINING IN THE US ARE NOW ON THE THRESHOLD OF LEAVING AND WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT CAN BE DONE WITH THEM. THIS IS AN EMBARRASSMENT FOR OURSELVES AS WELL AS BEING PROSPECTIVELY A MAJOR DISAPPOINTMENT FOR EVERY ARGENTINE INVOLVED.

3. IN A SEPARATE CABLE I DESCRIBE MY DECEMBER 5 CONVERSATION WITH MINISTER OF INTERIOR HARGUINDEGUY, WHO TOLD US OF A LIST OF "PODER EJECUTIVO NACIONAL" DETAINEES UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR RELEASE FROM CUSTODY AT ABOUT CHRISTMAS TIME. HARGUINDEGUY--IN ADDITION TO ARRANGING IMMEDIATELY THAT CONSULAR OFFICERS OF THE EMBASSY BE ALLOWED TO VISIT GUILLERMO VOGLER (BUENOS AIRES 9232)--PROMISED CONSULAR ACCESS TO ALL OTHER PERSONS NOW DETAINED UNDER PEN FOR WHOM AN INTERVIEW IS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO OBTAIN A US CERTIFICATE OF VISA AVAILABILITY TO BE USED IN A RIGHT OF OPTION PETITION. WE BELIEVE OTHER COUNTRIES WILL SIMILARLY BE ALLOWED THIS KIND OF ACCESS, WHICH COULD MEAN THAT THE RIGHT OF OPTION LOGJAM WILL BE BROKEN.

4. I DISLIKE INTENSELY THE IDEA OF OUR BECOMING INVOLVED WITH THE ARGENTINES IN ANY KIND OF "ONE FOR ONE DIPLOMACY"--OF THE KIND THAT MIGHT SUGGEST "WE GIVE YOU CONSULAR ACCESS TO PEN DETAINEES, AND YOU LET US PURCHASE MILITARY TRAINING." NEVERTHELESS I AM SUFFICIENTLY ENCOURAGED BY WHAT HARGUINDEGUY SAYS HE WILL DO THAT I FEEL CALLED UPON TO MAKE A RESPONSIVE GESTURE. THE GESTURE OF FACILITATING PURCHASE OF MILITARY TRAINING WOULD NOT, I BELIEVE, BE LOST UPON GENERAL VIOLA AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ARGENTINE MILITARY WHO AT THIS POINT ARE PRETTY WELL CONVINCED THAT WE ARE CLOSING OUR DOORS TO THEM COMPLETELY.

5. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND, AND ON AN URGENT BASIS, AN AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE TO REFTEL. THIS WILL GIVE ME AT THE VERY LEAST SOME BREATHING SPACE TO CONTEMPLATE HOW

WE CAN MOVE THE ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION ONE MORE STEP TOWARD IMPROVEMENT.
CASTRO

URGENT 12/8
MS: MB
Please note and comment
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05
We should oppose. Also, I think it may be against the law.
MS

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PAGE 01
ACTION PM-05

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 IGA-02 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01
 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 ACDA-12 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07
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 FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3048
 INFO SECDEF WASHDC
 JCS WASHDC
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UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 8290

FROM COMUSMILGP BUENOS AIRES ARGENTINA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, AR

SUBJECT: ARGENTINE MILITARY ASSISTANCE

1. THE FY-1978 SECURITY ASSISTANCE APPROPRIATION
 REPORTEDLY CONTAINS NO FUNDS FOR ARGENTINA.
 DOES THIS BILL PROHIBIT THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT FROM PURCHASING
 US MILITARY TRAINING? FYI THERE ARE THIRTY THREE (33) ARGENTINE
 MILITARY PERSONNEL PROGRAMMED TO ATTEND IMET COURSES IN
 DECEMBER/JANUARY TIME FRAME. THESE PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN UNDER-
 GOING ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. WILL THEY
 BE AUTHORIZED TO ATTEND SCHEDULED COURSES?

2. PLEASE ADVISE.
 CHAPLIN

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ACTION ARA-14

2351

BUENOS 09280 071845Z

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 HA-05
AID-05 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-08 PH-05 H-01 INR-07
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3583

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 9280

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS MASS SHUM AR
SUBJECT AMBASSADOR CASTRO'S MEETING WITH GENERAL VIOLA

1. SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR CASTRO MET WITH ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF VIOLA AND DISCUSSED HUMAN RIGHTS INCLUDING THE TIMERMAN CASE AND THE RIGHT OF OPTION PROGRAM, IMPACT OF U.S. RESTRICTIONS ON MILITARY SALES AND TRAINING, AND THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GENERAL VIOLA AND PRESIDENT VIDELA.
2. AMBASSADOR CASTRO, ACCOMPANIED BY DATT/ARMA (COL PAUL A. COUGHLIN), MET WITH ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF MAJOR GENERAL ROBERTO VIOLA IN THE ARMY HEADQUARTERS ON 5 DECEMBER. THE MEETING LASTED HALF AN HOUR.
3. EARLY IN THE CONVERSATION GENERAL VIOLA VOLUNTEERED THAT THE DENIAL OF FOREIGN MILITARY SALES AND CREDITS AND THE DISCONTINUANCE OF THE GRANT MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAM WOULD HAVE VERY LITTLE IMPACT ON THE GOA, ALTHOUGH THE NONAVAILABILITY OF SPARE PARTS PRESENTED A MORE SERIOUS PROBLEM, ESPECIALLY IN THE NAVY AND AIR FORCE. HE THEN ADDED THAT THE ONE THING THAT WOULD SURELY ALIENATE THE ARGENTINE ARMY WOULD BE TO CLOSE THE DOOR ON THE PURCHASE OF THOSE TRAINING COURSES IN THE U. S. WHICH THE ARMY FEELS THAT IT NEEDS.
4. IN RESPONSE TO AN INQUIRY BY AMBASSADOR CASTRO, CONCERNING THE TIMERMAN CASE, GENERAL VIOLA ADMITTED THAT THE GOA WAS FACED WITH A VERY DIFFICULT SITUATION. HE RECALLED THAT WHEN TIMERMAN WAS FIRST ARRESTED HE HAD ADVISED PRESIDENT VIDELA THAT THE CASE WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO HANDLE AND COULD BE EMBARRASSING FOR THE GOVERNMENT. HE INDICATED THAT SINCE THERE WERE NO CHARGES AGAINST TIMERMAN WHICH COULD BE TRIED IN A MILITARY COURT, HIS CASE WOULD BE TRIED IN A CIVIL COURT. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT THERE WAS STILL DOUBT AS TO THE ADEQUACY OF EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT A CONVICTION. DURING THE COURSE OF THE CONVERSATION THE GENERAL INSISTED THAT ANTI-SEMITISM IS NO MORE PREVALENT IN ARGENTINA THAN IN ANY OTHER COUNTRY.
5. WHEN AMBASSADOR CASTRO ASKED ABOUT THE RIGHT OF OPTION PROGRAM, GENERAL VIOLA PREDICTED THAT THERE WOULD BE IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS BEFORE CHRISTMAS WHICH WOULD RESULT IN THE RELEASE OF A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE FROM DETENTION.
6. TOWARD THE END OF THE MEETING, GENERAL VIOLA EMPHASIZED HIS EXTREMELY CLOSE AND PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH PRESIDENT VIDELA. HE STRESSED THAT NOT ONLY WAS HIS DOOR OPEN TO THE AMBASSADOR AT ANY TIME, BUT THAT HE HAD DIRECT AND RAPID ACCESS TO THE PRESIDENT AND HE INVITED AMBASSADOR CASTRO TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT CHANNEL WHENEVER HE FELT IT NECESSARY.
7. AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: GENERAL VIOLA'S ENCOURAGING PREDICTION OF THE RELEASE OF A LARGE NUMBER OF DETAINEES BY CHRISTMAS WAS CONSISTENT WITH WHAT I HAD JUST HEARD FROM THE INTERIOR MINISTER A FEW MINUTES EARLIER. ALSO, VIOLA'S COMMENTS ON JACOBO TIMERMAN REFLECT A DEGREE OF FLEXIBILITY AND AN UNDERSTANDING OF HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO ARGENTINA'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE THAT THE CASE BE RESOLVED SOON. THE CALL ON VIOLA WAS SCHEDULED AFTER

RECEIVING INFORMATION INFORMALLY THAT THE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF WAS VERY ANXIOUS TO MEET WITH ME. LOOKING BACK ON THE MEETING, IT APPEARS THAT HIS MAIN OBJECTIVE WAS TO IMPRESS UPON ME THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WHICH HE ENJOYS WITH PRESIDENT VIDELA AND TO OFFER HIMSELF AS A CONDUIT TO THE PRESIDENT. THIS CHANNEL WILL BE USEFUL FOR EXPRESSING MANY OF OUR CONCERNS. BEGINNING OF COURSE WITH HUMAN RIGHTS.
CASTRO

~~Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP~~

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 08974 282059Z

ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 IGA-02 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3426

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UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 8974

FROM COMUSMILGP BUENOS AIRES

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS MASS AR

SUBJECT ARGENTINE MILITARY ASSISTANCE

REF: BUENOS AIRES 8290

1. SINCE 1977 LEGISLATION APPARENTLY DENIES ONLY AMEPT FUNDS TO ARGENTINA, WE PRESUME GOA MAY STILL PURCHASE TRAINING UNDER FMS CASH PROCEDURES.

2. CURRENTLY, THERE ARE 33 STUDENTS PROGRAMMED FOR IMETP COURSES IN THE US BEGINNING THIS DECEMBER. GOA HAS BEEN SPENDING THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS MONTHLY TO SUPPORT THESE PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS IN TDY STATUS

WHILE THEY COMPLETE LANGUAGE TRAINING AND THEIR HOUSEHOLD GOODS ARE PACKED FOR SHIPMENT.

3. UNLESS DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTS OTHERWISE, WE ARE PREPARED, IN VIEW OF URGENT TIME CONSTRAINTS, TO ADVISE GOA THA ALTHOUGH

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IMETP IS NO LONGER AVAILABLE TO THEM, THE SAME TRAINING MAY BE PURCHASED FROM FMS CASH.

4. REQUEST EXPEDITIOUS REPLY.

CASTRO

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 09282 071921Z
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INFO OCT-31 ISO-00 HA-05 SCS-06 CA-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00
INRE-00 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 PRS-01 CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3585

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ BUENOS AIRES 9282

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS SHUM, AR
SUBJECT AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES WITH HARGUINDEGUY

1. DURING PAST SEVERAL DAYS AMBASSADOR HAS
MADE COURTESY CALLS UPON SEVERAL CABINET
MINISTERS AND RAISED ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS
IN ARGENTINA, BUT IT WAS WITH MINISTER OF
INTERIOR HARGUINDEGUY ON DECEMBER 5 THAT WE
FELL WE CAME CLOSEST TO STRIKING PAY DIRT:

A. VOGLER CASE AND PROCESSING RIGHT OF
OPTION CERTIFICATES. HARGUINDEGUY ASSURED
AMBASSADOR THAT HE WOULD ARRANGE PERMISSION
IN VERY SHORT ORDER FOR A MEMBER OF THE
EMBASSY CONSULAR STAFF TO INTERVIEW GUILLERMO
VOGLER FOR PROCESSING HIS IMMIGRANT VISA, AND
THAT THE REQUIRED MEDICAL EXAMINATION FOR
IMMIGRATION INTO THE US COULD ALSO BE GIVEN.
HARGUINDEGUY PROMISED CONSULAR ACCESS TO ANY FUTURE
"RIGHT OF OPTION" PETITIONER WITH WHOM IT IS NECESSARY
THAT AN EMBASSY CONSULAR OFFICER SPEAK IN ORDER TO
PROVIDE CERTIFICATION OF OUR WILLINGNESS TO ISSUE A
VISA. THIS IS IN ORDER THAT "RIGHT OF OPTION"
PROCEDURES REQUIRED OF PETITIONERS CAN BE COMPLETED.
HARGUINDEGUY TOLD US THAT HE HAD ALREADY GIVEN THIS
ASSURANCE PERSONALLY TO THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR, WHO IT
SEEMS ALSO IS CONCERNED WITH "RIGHT OF OPTION" PROCESSING.
(NOTE: ON THE FOLLOWING DAY AUTHORITIES OF THE PRISON
WHERE GUILLERMO VOGLER IS HELD SET 1600 DECEMBER 7 FOR
THE VISIT OF A US CONSULAR OFFICER, ALONG WITH DOCTOR
OF EMBASSY'S CHOOSING. SEPTTEL REPORTED.)

B. CHRISTMAS AMNESTY. HARGUINDEGUY TOLD AMBASSADOR
HE IS REVIEWING NOW A LIST OF SOME 675 PERSONS UNDER
CONSIDERATION FOR SOME KIND OF AMNESTY OR AMELIORATION
AT CHRISTMAS TIME. HARGUINDEGUY SAID THAT THE
INTENTION TO RELEASE--OR EXPEL FROM THE COUNTRY IN THE
CASE OF FOREIGNERS--PERSONS UNDER THE "PODER EJECUTIVO
NACIONAL" IS SIMPLY A SPEEDING UP OF WHAT ALL ALONG
HAS BEEN THE INTENTION OF THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT: TO
CUT AS FAR AS POSSIBLE THE NUMBERS OF PERSONS HELD UNDER
THE PEN. HARGUINDEGUY SAID THAT THE NUMBER OF PEN
PRISONERS NOW STANDS AT 3,667, WHEREAS THE NUMBER JUST
A FEW WEEKS EARLIER WAS ABOUT 4,500. HARGUINDEGUY
MENTIONED THAT THERE ARE 190 FOREIGN NATIONALS HELD
UNDER PEN. ONE PROBLEM THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT FACES,
HE SAID, IS FINDING A COUNTRY TO WHICH SOME OF THESE
PEOPLE CAN BE EXPELLED. HE SAID FOR EXAMPLE THAT SOME
CHILEANS WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED BY THEIR GOVERNMENT.
HARGUINDEGUY MENTIONED THAT OF THE TOTAL PEN NUMBER
SEVEN ARE ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIESTS.

C. TIMERMAN CASE. HARGUINDEGUY SPOKE OF THE
TIMERMAN CASE AS ONE WHO BELIEVES A SOLUTION CAN AND
SHOULD BE WORKED OUT--BUT HE DID NOT SPEAK IN ANY TIME
FRAME. THE AMBASSADOR DESCRIBED AT SOME LENGTH FOR
HARGUINDEGUY THE ENORMOUS SYMBOLIC VALUE THE TIMERMAN
CASE HAS COME TO HAVE IN THE US.

2. HARGUINDEGUY IS A TOUGH GENERAL WHO DURING AMBASSADOR'S

CALL MENTIONED ALMOST CASUALLY AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT
AGAINST HIM UNCOVERED ONLY THE WEEK BEFORE. (A PARKED
CAR LOADED WITH DYNAMITE HAD BEEN DISCOVERED ALONG ONE
OF THE ROUTES HARGUINDEGUY USES TO ARRIVE AT HIS OFFICE.)
TO THE AMBASSADOR'S FRANK TALK ABOUT THE KIND OF INFORMATION
THAT CIRCULATES ABROAD ABOUT ARGENTINA, HOWEVER, HARGUINDEGUY
SHOWED A LIVELY APPRECIATION AND INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO GET
ON WITH THE TASK OF IMPROVING THINGS.
CASTRO

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 09294 072152Z
ACTION ARA-14

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BUENOS 09294 072152Z

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 PM-05 HSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3592

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E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS SHUM, AR
SUBJECT ON JUNTA MEMBER AGOSTI AND DEFENSE MINISTER KLIX

1. HUMAN RIGHTS, RELATED GOA MILITARY PROBLEMS WITH
THE US AND ARGENTINAS IMAGE ABROAD WERE STRESSED
DURING THE AMBASSADORS DISCUSSIONS WITH THESE
HIGH RANKING GOA OFFICIALS.

2. AMBASSADOR TOLD AIR FORCE COMMANDER GEN. ORLANDO
R. AGOSTI IN CALL ON NOV29 THE PROBLEM OF HUMAN RIGHTS CONTINUES TO
HARM RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. HE SUGGESTED
THE NEED FOR DUE PROCESS OF LAW AS AN INTEGRAL PART IN
THE STRUGGLE AGAINST SUBVERSION. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED
THAT THE RECENT DETENTIONS OF REPORTERS DID A GREAT
DEAL OF DAMAGE TO ARGENTINAS IMAGE OVERSEAS.

3. AGOSTI EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE US CONGRESS
DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE DIFFICULT SITUATION AND
COMPLAINED THAT AS A RESULT OF RECENT
LEGISLATION THE ARGENTINE AIR FORCE WOULD BE FORCED TO
BUY NON US EQUIPMENT. AGOSTI SAID HE WOULD
RATHER BUY FROM THE US AND THAT HE HOPED NEW
LEGISLATION WOULD PERMIT ARGENTINA TO PURCHASE THE
EQUIPMENT IT NEEDS. AMBASSADOR REPLIED SUGGESTING
THAT ARGENTINA COULD CHANGE ITS IMAGE BY CLARIFYING
THE STATUS OF PEOPLE WHO HAD DISAPPEARED AND RELEASING
PERSONS WITH NO DIRECT CONNECTION WITH SUBVERSION.
THE AMBASSADOR URGED THE GOA TO TAKE STEPS
TOWARD A RETURN TO THE FULL RULE OF LAW, WHICH
WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE ITS IMAGE ABROAD.

4. BRIGADIER KLIX WELCOMED THE AMBASSADOR
WARMLY ON NOV 30 CALL AND REVIEWED THE CLOSE TIES THE ARGENTINE
MILITARY HAS HAD OVER THE YEARS WHICH RESULTED IN
INVENTORIES IN ALL SERVICES THAT ARE LARGELY US.
HE SAID OVER THE YEARS HUNDREDS OF ARGENTINE OFFICERS
WHO TRAINED IN THE US HAD RETURNED WITH AN
APPRECIATION OF US DEMOCRACY AND NOW HOLD IMPORTANT
POSITIONS. KLIX SAID ARGENTINA IS NOT INTERESTED
IN AID OR FMS CREDITS SINCE THE GOA CAN PURCHASE
BOTH EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING.

5. BUT HE SAID IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE GOA NOT BE
DENIED THE OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE US EQUIPMENT,
ESSENTIAL SPARE PARTS AND TRAINING.

6. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT DESPITE THE PROBLEMS
BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY
THE FACT THAT THE GOA IS INTERESTED
IN MAINTAINING A DIALOGUE TO SEEK SOLUTIONS. THE
AMBASSADOR SAID, HOWEVER, THAT IN THIS POST VIETNAM
PERIOD THE CONCERNS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS ARE BEING
EXPRESSED FORCEFULLY THROUGH THE CONGRESS. ONE OF
THESE CONCERNS IS HUMAN RIGHTS.

7. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT WHILE HE KNEW THAT THIS
SUBJECT IN ARGENTINA IS A SENSITIVE ONE FOR A

FOREIGNER TO ADDRESS, HE WOULD MAKE SOME
SUGGESTIONS WHICH MIGHT HELP IMPROVE ARGENTINAS
HUMAN RIGHTS IMAGE ABROAD. REFERRING TO THE
"RIGHT OF OPTION" AMBASSADOR
SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS A RELATIVELY LARGE NUMBER
OF DETAINEES COULD BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE
WITHOUT CREATING A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE GOA.
IT HAS BEEN OBSERVED ABROAD THAT FEW, IF ANY,
PERSON HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN ABLE TO EXERCISE THE
RIGHT OF OPTION ANNOUNCED SEVERAL MONTHS AGO.
THE AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THAT ARGENTINA COULD
GIVE PRIORITY TO THE CASE OF JACOBO
TIMERNAN AND EITHER CONVICT HIM IN A COURT OF
LAW OR RELEASE HIM IF THE AVAILABLE EVIDENCE
IS NOT SUFFICIENT. THE AMBASSADOR ADDED THAT THE
RELEASE OF EX-PRESIDENT CAMPORA IS OF INTEREST TO MANY.

8. KLIX AGREED THAT SUCH ACTIONS WOULD INDEED
IMPROVE ARGENTINAS IMAGE, BUT THAT THEY WERE NOT
EASY FOR THE GOA TO TAKE GIVEN THE BRUTALITY
ENGENDERED BY TERRORISM IN ARGENTINA OVER THE
LAST THREE YEARS. THEN KLIX TOLD THE AMBASSADOR
THAT HE THOUGHT THERE COULD BE "A MAJOR
DEVELOPMENT" ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS FRONT
BEFORE CHRISTMAS. THE IMPLICATION WAS THAT SOME
DETAINEES WOULD BE RELEASED.
CASTRO

Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP
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